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**Paul's Proposal to Arm Pilots Included in Aviation Bill**

Washington, DC: The U.S. House and Senate both approved an aviation security bill that permits airlines to arm pilots for the defense of themselves, their passengers, and their crews. Paul originally introduced his bill to allow firearms in the cockpit in the wake of the September 11th tragedies, hoping to quickly end an FAA ban on the practice. Paul's bill generated tremendous public support, prompting congressional leaders to adopt a pilot gun provision in the House bill. Senator Bob Smith of New Hampshire also introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

"I'm gratified that Congress has recognized the need for this common sense approach to airline safety," Paul stated. "Commercial pilots, and the largest pilot unions, overwhelmingly favor having the ability to defend themselves and their passengers against future terrorist acts. Congress, the administration, and the FAA should listen to the actual pilots who ultimately stand in harm's way in the event of another hijacking attempt. Pilots need firearms as a last line of defense in the cockpit."

Anti-gun interests in both the House and Senate worked vigorously behind the scenes to defeat the provision, but the ongoing efforts of Congressman Paul and Senator Smith ultimately proved successful.

"The challenge now is to monitor the Transportation department and insure the program is implemented," Paul concluded. "Federal bureaucrats have resisted this safety measure long enough, and Congress must make sure the new law is followed."

